

Unpleasantly disturbed at recent attempts to censor television. Incidence of violence is much lower in Japan than the US, yet their programs are more violent and less forcefully educational--to be shown over here they're usually edited beyond recovery. But Japan has a better police system and friendlier culture--this is what we should work on. We should also not silence violence, but work toward a solution. Pretending violence does not exist is as good as perpetuating it. Allow children to see it, learn that it's *wrong* and how to deal with it. Children will be exposed to violence, it's a fact of life--better to expose them in a safe environment on a TV screen than have them meet it dead on in life with no preparation. Allow them to have an outlet for negative feelings--to see violence played out instead of engaging in it. Allow them enjoyment. Allow them to be educated with facts in school, and with social skills on television--let them learn honor and friendship (things I value and learned from the original "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" show before it was required to be educational--when I stopped watching). Didactic programming is well and good, but it need not be all. Entertainment is just as important in life as memorizing math formulae--what is the point of a life with a money making job but no joy? Educational programming should be subtle, unobtrusive not preaching. That loses the interest of the child and thus the message of the programming.

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